

MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION MEETING March 6, 2008

Behavioral Health Resource Center
Conference Room F119-120
850 E. Foothill Blvd.
Rialto, CA 92376

Members present: May Farr, Christopher Massa, David Ford, Carol Grisotti, Veatrice Jews, Jane Mercer, Nick Andonov, Susan McGee-Stehsel, Bill Swift, Gabriel Gonzales, Jane Ann Godager, Tanya Perry, Lisha Smith on behalf of Supervisor Gonzales and Allan Rawland. Minutes recorded by Debi Pasco.

Guests: Renee Compton, Pathways to Recovery; Sharon Hosea, Beverly Scott, Leslie Miller, Michael Hill, Public; Marco Garcia, Nick and Irene Delgado, The Way World Outreach; Julie Hovivian, Vista Guidance Center; Marsha Mathews, MHS, Inc.; Evelyn Solorio, Michelle Dusick, Richard Hernandez, Kristen Martinez, Laretta Ross, Dot Walsh, Bob Sudol, Ron Smith, Doug Fazekas, Lynn Neuenswander, Doris Turner, David Denkers, Maria Coronado, Michael Schertell, Lisa McGinnis, DBH.

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

Chairperson Andonov called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Self introductions followed. The agenda for this meeting was approved. Changes to the minutes of February 7, 2008 are as follows: Under New Business, 2008 Election of Officers; Secretary-Carol Grisotti. Add "Contact Number (optional)" to future Mental Health Commission sign-in sheets.

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Chairperson Andonov announced that it is his dream to become the best Mental Health Commission in the state. His congratulations went to Mr. Swift on his reappointment to the Commission. He also congratulated Mr. Rawland for receiving a "Champions of Change" award from the California Institute of Mental Health for his work on Integrated Healthcare, and would like to see this subject presented to the Commission in 3-4 months. May Farr was presented with a plaque thanking her for serving as 2007 Chair of the Mental Health Commission. Ms. Farr stated, "my commitment comes from the heart and we (the Mental Health Commission) are all here to assist you." Chairperson Andonov then introduced "our seasoned Director, Allan Rawland".

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Proposed FY 08-09 State and County Budget:

The State is experiencing a major budget crisis with \$2 billion worth of reduction in children's services and an additional \$8 billion reduction to the schools. Everyone is waiting for the Governor's May revise.

The County is looking at the impact to the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH). Mental Health is somewhat protected with Realignment funds which come from sales tax and vehicle registration. The largest cuts for DBH will occur in Alcohol and Drug Programs (Prop 36 and Drug Courts) and EPSDT.

Objectives to increase revenue this year include:

- An assertive approach to collecting additional Medicaid and Medi-Cal reimbursements by assisting clients with paperwork
- Address the disparity issue in the Hispanic and African American community

Request For Proposals (RFPs)

Within the last 40 days, nine RFPs have been distributed. The Mental Health Commission has volunteered to take part in the review process during March and April. DBH has over 200 RFPs, Contracts and MOUs to renew before the end of the fiscal year.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Leslie Miller from Yucca Valley asked, "Are veterans given special consideration when receiving services with the County? Ralph Ortiz stated that the County and the Veterans Administration (VA) have been working closely to address the needs of veterans.

Marco Garcia, from The Way World Outreach, described how the "Adopt-A-Block" program assists the community in neighborhoods with the greatest need of abolishing blight, drugs and violence by:

- Picking up and disposing of trash in the area
- Knock on doors to offer items of necessity; whether clothes or appliances
- Organize a block party

Contact information for The Way World Outreach is 909-884-7117 and is located on the corner of 4th and Arrowhead in San Bernardino.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION – MHSA PLANNING

Mr. Rawland stated that all the MHSA programs are up and running in under 2 years and moving forward.

- On March 4, 2008 the Board of Supervisors approved the MHSA Sub- Agreement of \$51 million, and at the same time approved the Director of Behavioral Health as the administrative and fiscal agent to streamline the process.
- The State approved our request for the 24/7 Adult Mobile Crisis throughout the County.
- Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI) - Michelle Dusick, PEI Coordinator. We have received \$881,000. PEI incorporates mental health with drug and alcohol services that support each other. Entire communities are working together to plan PEI.
 - ✓ 3 strong initiatives: school-based, community resources and systems enhancement
 - ✓ After the stakeholder review process, we hope to submit the final PEI Plan to the State on June 16th. We are 8-9 months ahead of other counties.
- Prudent reserves - \$15 million will be used as contingency funds
- Expansion fund - \$55 million to transform AB 2034 to a homeless program partnering with Vista Community Counseling
- Workforce Education and Training (WET) – Mariann Ruffolo, Admin Manager. We will receive \$5 million to spend over 10 years. The WET draft will be presented to CPAC on May 15; public hearings will follow.
- Capitol and Technology - \$10 million funding; 10 years to spend

- Housing - \$20 million; partner with city to develop permanent housing
- We have received \$40 million MHSA money since July 2005 and have spent \$15 million. Our total allocation of MHSA funding will be \$137 million. Interest collected to date is \$1.4 million. If you don't spend monies in 3 years the State will reverse or sweep the funds.

Please join the "MHSA Think Tank" meetings to develop full-service partnerships with contract agencies and the County.

Lynn Neuenswander announced May is Mental Health Month. Activities will include:

- Evening with the Stars Awards Dinner will be Wednesday, May 14 at the Castaway Restaurant from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Guest speaker: Tom Wootton.
- The 3rd Annual Mental Health Wellness Fair will take place on Saturday, May 31 at the Victorville Fairgrounds from 10 am – 3:00 pm. We are expecting 65 vendors and multicultural entertainment.

Lynn also mentioned that she is working with Supervisor Gonzales's office to coordinate a consumer art exhibit at the Government Center.

Upcoming DBH Program special presentations to the Mental Health Commission are as follows:

- April 3, 2008 – CAEQRO Report by Sarah Eberhardt-Rios, Program Manager II
- May 1, 2008 - Medical Services by Jatin Dalal

NEW BUSINESS

- **Invitation to Consumers:**

Dr. Andonov encouraged consumers to bring as many people as they wish to the monthly Mental Health Commission meetings that occur the 1st Thursday of every month.

- **Commission Duties:**

Dr. Andonov stated that the Mental Health Commission will be involved in the MHSA Public Hearing process and reviewing RFPs within the next couple of months.

- **Revision of Holiday Award Recognition Form:**

The taskforce has been meeting to update/revise the nomination form for the Annual Holiday Tea and Awards Ceremony sponsored by the Mental Health Commission.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

District 1: David Ford stated that the Southern Regional Training for Boards and Commissions on February 28-March 1 was very informative and provided networking opportunities. He believes the State budget proposal is attacking our children and school districts. He suggested letting our legislators know that there actions are inappropriate.

District 2: May Farr announced that there will be a clothing drive sponsored by the Consensus Committee with boxes located in strategic areas. Goodwill Industries will pick up the items.

District 3: Tanya Perry stated that the Big Bear Mental Health Alliance has submitted their plan/proposal to the Department of Behavioral Health Executive Group for review.

District 4: No report at this time.

District 5: Veatrice Jews has been working closely with the PEI Planning Committee and is very excited of the progress that is being made.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Being no further items to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Nick Andonov
Chairperson

Debi Pasco
Clerk of the Commission